(b) if so, what are the salient features of the other recommendations made by the working group and what is the decision, if any, taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Working Group has not yet submitted its report.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of Gold

3438. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold weighing 90 kgs. valued Rs. 2.78 crores have been seized in the Capital on the 21st July, 1988 as reported in 'the Hindu' of the 22nd July, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection and if so, what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have seized 772 gold biscuits weighing 10 tolas each and collectively valued at Rs. 2.79 crores approximately on 19th|20th July, 1988 from three trucks which were intercepted at Matheri and Kurukshera in Haryana.

(c) 10 persons found to be involved in these cases were arrested and also detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Sale of Gold by Bharat Gold Mines Limited

3439. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Gold Mines Limited has recently been permitted by Government to sell gold in open market; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a part of a package of measures taken by the Government for making the operations of the Company viable in future.

Protection of wild'ife from Natural Calamities

3440. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious drought which prevailed during the last two consecutive years had affected wildlife in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure that wild'ife may not be affected due to natural calamities and if so, what amount has been allocated for this purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reduced availability of water in the habitat leads to a lowerine of physical vitality of the animals due to impoverished diet and an increase in the danger of contagion of disease transmitted by domestic stock. The chances of fire in the drier part of the habitat is also increased.

The details of Central assistance released so far specifically to counter these effects of drought on wild life in the various States is as under:—

State	Amount in Rs. lakhs
Andhra Pradesh	3 60
Gujarat	15.55
Karnataka	9 10
Kerala	11.97
Madhya Pradesh	8 35
Rajasthan	8 00
Total	56.57

This was in addition to other Central assistance given each year; supporting measures which, *inter alia*, aimed at enhancing water supply for Wildlife conserving the habitat and in preventing competition with livestock.

Custodians of seized Narcotics and Drugs

3441. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very senior officials of proven integrity are entrusted with the custody of the seized narcotics and drugs;

(b) if so, what are the details of such custodians in Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Punjab;

(c) what are the safeguards adopted in general for prevention of the seized narcotics and drugs from being pilfered and recycled in market; and

(c) whether there are instances of such pilferage during the last three years, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A detailed procedure containing necessary guidelines for storage and safe custody of seized drugs has been circulated to all Central and State enforcement agencies concerned.

In all the places including Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Punjab, the godowns for sorage of the seized drugs with the enforcement agencies under the Ministry of Finance are placed under the overall supervision and charge of a gazetted officer of the concerned enforcement agency.

(c) Detailed documents for receipt, storage, handling, etc. as prescribed in the above guidelines are strictly followed and thedrugs are stored in safe and secure places. Whereever feasible the drugs are kept in strong rooms.

(d) No, Sir.

Allegation against Director General of Police, Punjab

3442. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH. MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Smt. Rupan Bajaj, IAS, a special Secretary in the Punjab Government has lodged an FIR against Shri K. P. S. Gill, Director General of Policies alleging that Shri